
In Focus

Fall 2017



**News from the BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library (BTBL)**

702 W Kalamazoo St., P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909

Spotlight on LMF

Established in 1985, the Library of Michigan Foundation (LMF) has been supporting BTBL for more than 30 years. Gifts made by patrons, friends, and family like you keep this support alive and though not required by any means, we truly appreciate any gift made on our behalf to the LMF.

BTBL staff is grateful for the Foundation's help in bringing programs and services to our patrons. A sound-proof recording studio, one of the Foundations first contributions, has been in continuous use since 1990 to create Michigan-interest audio books. In 1997, LMF provided the funds needed for BTBL's first Libraries Without Walls adaptive technology conference, and continues to provide support for this biennial event. Materials and prizes for our youth Summer Reading Program and the statewide Braille Challenge, described videos, various pieces of equipment that keep the recording studio current, and let's not forget this very newsletter keeping you informed, are all ways LMF helps BTBL!

For more on the Library of Michigan Foundation's long-standing relationship with BTBL visit: <http://www.libraryofmichiganfoundation.org/braille-and-talking-books-library/>

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BTBL Calendar

BTBL Club Info

Clubs meet in the BTBL lobby on the ground floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the elevators. Computer and Book Club meet the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 and 1:30, respectively. Knitting Club meets the first Friday of the month at noon. Hands-On Club meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 10:30. Most club sessions last around 2 hours. Club dates are always subject to change, especially around the holidays. Please contact the library prior to the program to confirm the date and time. If you cannot attend in person, you may join most of our clubs by dialing 888-278-0296 and entering the access code 5836578.

BTBL Calendar of Events:

- September 23: **NEW Hands-On Club** - Fall Gardening Tips presented by David Penfold, former head gardener at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island. REGISTRATION REQUESTED to ensure space is available. Bring family and friends. Win an exciting door prize! Call 1-800-992-9012 to register.
- October 6: **Knitting Club**
- October 14: **Computer Club** - Apple iOS update with Al Puzzuoli
- October 14: **Book Club** - *Kindred* by Octavia Butler (DB16072)
- October 19: **Consumer Involvement Committee**, 1-2pm. Conference call open to all patrons about the future of library services.
- October 28: **Hands-On Club** - Woodcarving presented by Fred Erbis
- November 3: **Knitting Club**
- November 18: **Computer Club** - Holiday Shopping with J.J. Meddaugh
- November 18: **Book Club** - *A Hope in the Unseen: an American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* by Ron Suskine (DB47795)
- November 23-24: Library closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 1: **Knitting Club**
- December 2: **Hands-On Club** - Gifts in a Jar presented by BTBL staff
- December 9: **Computer and Book Club** topics to be announced
- December 22-25: Library closed for Christmas Holiday

Technology Corner

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

OrCam at a Glance

The OrCam is a wearable assistive device that utilizes a miniature smart camera to scan and read text or barcodes, identify money and colors, and includes face recognition software. OrCam's smart camera is mounted on a pair of glasses leaving the user's hands free to hold a book, document, food package, etc. Point the camera toward the item to be read, and OrCam takes a picture and processes the information. Then, OrCam reads aloud through a mini speaker mounted on the frame of the glasses. Earbuds can also be connected by wire to the processor's headphone jack.

The OrCam's operation is controlled by only three buttons, and the processor contains information for over 700,000 barcodes. This gives the user access to information on a variety of commercial products such as canned foods and health and beauty products.

Overall, OrCam has an extensive list of features and performs some useful tasks. The full-feature OrCam costs \$3,500, and the basic reading OrCam is \$2,500. Hopefully over time, products like the OrCam will continue to develop and have improved functionality at a lower price.

The key to using the OrCam effectively is properly aiming the camera. While testing, I had some difficulty with this and became quite frustrated with the process. Even though I found a wearable reading device liberating, I think the recognition and reading functions need some improvement. I wonder how long it will be before there is a headset connected to a smart phone that can perform the same functions. Perhaps the folks at OrCam are working on that as I write this article.

For more information about the OrCam product, visit their website at www.orcam.org.

Local Recordings

Betsie Branch, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or branchb1@michigan.gov

The Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library's local narration program wishes to thank the following authors and publishers for their generous donations to our recording studio. They have been extremely cooperative in supplying us with electronic and print versions of Michigan Notable, Michigan-interest, and Michigan author books. The ebooks allow volunteer narrators to efficiently create high quality digital recordings for our patrons. Thank you!

- Richard L. Baldwin, author of Michigan mystery novels
- Mary Morgan, author of *National Park Mysteries* children's series
- Nancy Owen Nelson, author of *Searching for Nannie B. : Connecting Three Generations of Southern Women*
- Linda Hass, author of *Michigan's Crossroads to Freedom : The Underground Railroad in Jackson County*
- Michigan State University Press, University of Michigan Press, and Wayne State University Press, publishers of *Michigan Notable Books*
- Library of Michigan, from whom we often borrow books for recording

Recently Recorded Michigan-Related Books:

DBC11144 - *Thrift Store Saints : Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time* by Jane Knuth, read by Betsie Bush. Knuth's Catholic upbringing had not prepared her for the soul-stirring encounters she experienced while volunteering and serving the poor and needy at the St. Vincent DePaul thrift store in inner-city Kalamazoo, Michigan. 2010. (3h 47m)

DBC11153 - *Thrift Store Graces : Finding God's Gifts in the Midst of the Mess* by Jane Knuth, read by Betsie Bush. More thoughtful essays about the author's time volunteering with the St. Vincent DePaul Society in Kalamazoo, Michigan, interwoven with accounts of her pilgrimage to a sacred location in Bosnia. 2012. (4h 22m)

Youth Services

Stephanie Wambaugh, Youth and Outreach Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or wambaugh@michigan.gov

Michigan eLibrary (MeL) and Other Resources for Students

It's that time of year again... back to school! Here are a few great resources for students, teachers, and parents alike.

Michigan e-Library (MeL) is a collection of databases available to Michigan residents completely free of charge!

- For younger readers: check out *BookFlix* and the *Early World of Learning* databases. These both feature, among many things, read along functions that highlight text as the story is read out loud, as well as leveled reading. This could be particularly helpful for our patrons struggling with dyslexia.
- For middle and high school aged students: view *Research in Context* and *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* for information that meets teacher standards for reliable sources when writing research papers.

Databases available on MeL come from a variety of vendors, including well-known Gale and Britannica. Different vendors adhere to different accessibility testing and guidelines, but most features on this site should work with screen readers. Simply go to www.mel.org to get started!

Another great resource is the Michigan Department of Education- Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO). They provide tools and services to support students who are blind or visually impaired. Accessible versions of text books, workshops and trainings are offered throughout the year.

Lastly, BTBL has many titles that are considered required reading for Language Art and English classes. In addition, we can help create book lists based on grade and reading levels that are customized to a student's needs and preferences. We also work with Learning Ally, which is a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping students with print disabilities, including blindness, visual impairment, and dyslexia.

We hope you take full advantage of these resources and have an excellent school year!

News

NLS and Perkins Team Up for eReader Pilot

“Braille needs to migrate. It needs to follow print into the electronic era where it can be more flexible, more ubiquitous, more accessible, more manageable.” These are the words of National Library Service for Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) Director Karen Keninger at the April 2016 NLS national conference in San Francisco.

And now we’re seeing that migration come about. Earlier this month, Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Library, and Keninger, representing NLS, stood side by side to announce a practical step toward the future of braille distribution. They were launching a pilot to test the effectiveness of distributing digital braille files for use on braille eReaders—those refreshable braille displays that are now becoming more widespread and portable. In the pilot, the Perkins Library is providing braille eReaders to registered borrowers in order to test the ease of use and effectiveness of electronic braille files on the devices.

Non-braille users might be surprised to learn what a difference a change to electronic distribution can make for braille users. Digital files have been used for years to produce hard-copy paper braille books, which, when printed, require between two to eight physical volumes per title. That bulkiness—in production, handling, shipping, storage—is exactly what digital files and braille eReaders can help alleviate.

There’s no question that the fundamental process of distributing digital braille files works, and that eReaders can serve them up easily for users of braille. What we still need to understand is how best to turn that process into practice.

It’s exactly the right moment for this pilot. Braille eReaders have been around for decades, but their cost has put them out of reach of many. Now eReaders are becoming more affordable and easier to operate. The pilot is timed to help NLS, and partner organizations like the Perkins Library, prepare for wider use among their patrons.

NLS will keep you posted as the pilot unfolds. It’s not just NLS, it’s braille itself that’s on the move!

By: NLS on the Move publication team

Around the State

The following programs may be offered only to patrons within the counties served for each library location. To find out if a program is available to you, refer to the library listings on page 10 or call the location in question to verify.

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Internet and Word Processing Training Using Assistive Technology.** Tuesdays, 10a.m.-2p.m. Learn to use computers and assistive technology. Keyboard instruction is also offered. Limited to Detroit and Highland Park residents.
- **Braille Instruction.** Tuesdays, 1p.m.-3p.m. Learn to read and write Braille.
- **Nifty Knitters.** Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12p.m.-2p.m. Learn to knit on a loom and enjoy knitting with others. Supplies are provided or bring your own.
- **Book Club.** Meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 1p.m.-2:30p.m. Two books are discussed at each meeting. Light refreshments served.
- **Registration Required.** All programs are offered free of charge but you must register in advance. Participants must provide their own transportation.

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Muskegon County Low Vision Support Group**
 - **Muskegon:** United Way Bldg (31 E. Clay Ave.) the third Wednesday of the month at 9:15 AM
- **Ottawa County Low Vision Support Groups**
 - **Grand Haven:** The Village at the Pines (1450 S. Ferry St.) the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - **Holland:** Village at Appledoorn (630 Hastings Ave.) the fourth Monday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - **Zeeland:** Royal Park Place (500 Parkside Dr.) the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - Call 1-800-466-8084 for more information regarding any of the support groups.
- **Community Outreach.** We participated in several community events this summer. We will be speaking at a local organization's fall meeting and are available for visits to assisted living facilities. Please call us if you would like more information.

Genesee District Library Talking Book Center

- **Upcoming Outreach Events.** Contact us regarding the following events near you.
 - September 21 at 1:00 PM, Swank Home Assisted Living, 9412 Miller Rd, Swartz Creek.
 - October 4 1:30 PM, Pines of Burton, 5310 Davison Rd, Burton MI.

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Brown Bag Talking Book Discussion.** Wednesday, October 11: Noon to 1:30 P.M. The group discusses two books each month. Listen to both, one, or none. Everyone is welcome. Please call the library to order your copies of the books:
 DB 81535 – The Children’s Crusade by Ann Packer
 DB 84230 – The Second Life of Nick Mason by Steve Hamilton & Ray Porter
- **Technology Talk.** Wednesday, October 18: Noon to 1:30 P.M. Topic: Amazon Alexa & Echo Dot. Using your voice, you can ask Amazon’s Alexa app to do a number of things such as play your music library, check the weather, give you news updates, and much more! The library will demonstrate how Alexa works via our Echo Dot 2.
- **Support Group for Visually Impaired People (VIPs).** Wednesday, October 25: Noon to 1:30 P.M. Kitchen Safety. Share your kitchen tips and cooking techniques including measuring, testing food for doneness, and using tools and appliances when dealing with vision loss.
- **Telephone Line for Programs.** Can’t attend a program in person? Don’t worry. You can participate through our conference line. Contact Sarah Roe for details at 734-287-4840 or 844-307-1621.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **World Sight Day.** Join us on Friday, October 13th once again with a “Brown Bag, Bring your Own Lunch”. We will provide beverages and a treat. Please come and learn from Scott Norris, the Adaptive Technology Librarian from our Regional Lansing office who will be our guest presenter. The program is sure to be a success with Scott answering your many questions and comments about adaptive technology for various devices. We will meet from 12:00-1:00pm in the McGuire Room at our main Traverse Area District Library on 610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686 Toll Free 1-877-931-8558, or 231-932-8558. You won’t want to miss this event. Scott is known throughout the state for his fine presentations. Come one, come all.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Communication Skills for V.I.P.s.** Join us for this two-hour seminar this fall. Attendees will explore techniques for expressing our needs to our family and friends, medical personnel and the community. The seminar will be presented by Sharon Lotoczky, but there will be ample time for open discussion. This seminar is open to V.I.P.s (Visually Impaired Persons) and their family members. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 17, 2017. For more information, please contact us at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.
- **Macomb Blind Bowling League.** The Macomb Blind Bowling League offers fun and friendship for visually impaired, blind, and sighted bowlers. The group meets on Wednesdays, from 11:30 am until 3:00 pm, at Fraser Lanes. The cost is \$10 per week. Besides bowling, there are 50/50 raffles, mystery jackpots, and an end of season banquet. Eight different Lions Clubs sponsor the league. The league invites sighted persons to join in the fun of bowling and to help with scorekeeping and pin placement. To join and to get information please call Frank at (586) 465-6694.

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

- **The two finalist titles in consideration for Washtenaw Reads 2018:** A Very Good Read have been chosen! Read along with us and tell us what you think: *Home Going* by Yaa Gyasi, DB84732 (also available in Large Print), and *Thank You For Your Service* by David Finkel, DB77869 (this book has not been published in Large Print). For more information on Washtenaw Reads, please visit <http://aareads.aadl.org/>, or call us at (734) 327-4224.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **Brookridge Book Club.** Brookridge Assisted Living in Marquette meets the last Thursday of each month. On September 28th, we will be discussing *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* (DB67526). You are all welcome to join us! Call Lynn for more information or if you're interested in starting a book club in your town in the Great Lakes Talking Books area at 906-228-7697, Ext. 0.
- **Temporary Address?** Please call if you plan on heading south for the winter! We can have your audio books follow you. Lynn Buckland-Brown, your Reader Advisor, is available to answer questions or make changes in your subject or author profiles Monday, 11:30 AM-5:00 PM and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 AM- 2:30 PM. Nick can assist you on other days and times.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Summer Reading.** OTBS patrons enjoyed participating in this year's summer reading program. In total, we received 41 entries and had five delighted prize winners! Some of the prizes included Braille measuring cups, adaptive wallet, and a kitchen timer.
- **Phoney Friends Book Group.** If you prefer not to travel, we are happy to offer a virtual book group that requires only a phone call. Every month, the group will discuss books via conference call. To learn more about this group, please contact Michelle at 248-650-5681.
- **Senior Activity Centers.** OTBS staff personally contacted over 25 senior centers in Oakland County and followed up with informational packets on the Talking Book and other services available.
- **Braille Storytime Walk.** The Braille Storytime Walk is in place and combines the pleasures of reading children's books aloud with the joys and benefits of walking together outdoors and through the library's sensory garden. Participants can discover a page from a children's picture book in text and braille, laminated and mounted. As they continue walking through the library's gardens, they discover more and more pages until an entire story is created. This past summer, an Enhanced Storytime Walk Program was facilitated by one of the library's youth specialists. The program was made possible by funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services via the Library of Michigan.

Michigan Talking Book Libraries

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library

1-800-992-9012 Counties served: Alcona, Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

1-734-327-4224 Counties served: Washtenaw

Great Lakes Talking Books

1-800-562-8985 Counties served: Alger, Alpena, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

1-800-774-4542 Counties served: Oakland

Genesee District Talking Book Center

1-866-732-1120 Counties served: Genesee

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-616-647-3988 Counties served: Ionia, Kent, Montcalm

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

1-877-931-8558 Counties served: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-800-272-8570 Counties served: Huron, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-231-737-6310, 1-877-569-4801 (Ottawa) Counties served: Muskegon, Ottawa

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

1-586-286-1580 Counties served: Macomb

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving Wayne County

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-313-481-1702 Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

Library of Michigan Foundation

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) better serve thousands of Michigan residents statewide who are visually impaired or have other disabilities. Donors may also opt to provide for the Library of Michigan Foundation in their wills. By doing so, donors are able to make a larger gift than what might be possible during their lifetime, become eligible to receive tax benefits, and enjoy recognition and thanks now for their planned charitable contributions later. To make a gift of support, please send a check to the Library of Michigan Foundation, P.O. Box 11027, Lansing, MI 48901, or contact Darlene at **517-373-2977** or Mary at **517-373-1297**.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) program.

If you would like to receive future mailings and information from the Library of Michigan Foundation, please sign below and return to:

Library of Michigan Foundation
P.O. Box 30159
Lansing, MI 48909



LIBRARY OF
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Check for further information:

- ☐ Gifts and Bequests
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- ☐ I have included you in my will
- ☐ Here is a gift of \$_____ to help enhance the BSBP Braille and Talking Book program.

Signature: _____

BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library
702 W Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

***FREE
MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND***

How to Reach the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)

By Phone: 517-373-5614
1-800-992-9012 (toll free)

By Fax: 517-373-5865
1-800-726-7323 (toll free)

By E-Mail: btbl@michigan.gov

On the Web: www.michigan.gov/btbl

Online Catalog:
www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks

BARD:
<https://nlsbard.loc.gov>
(to download digital books)

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